

June 9, 2003

Public Notice for 401 Certification

and/or

Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)
Twin Valley Ranch/Porter Creek Bridge WDID No. 1B03066WNSO
Sonoma County

On March 28, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Jessica Sisco of LSA Associates, Inc., on behalf of E&J Gallo Vineyards, Inc., requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Porter Creek Bridge Project in Sonoma County. The application was deemed complete on April 28, 2003. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the state associated with Porter Creek within the Mark West Hydrologic Unit No.114.23.

The proposed project is located in the northwest quarter of Section 19 in Township 8 North, Range 9 West of the Guerneville 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle, on Twin Valley Ranch at 9015 West Side Road, Sonoma County, California. The purpose of the project is to construct a bridge over Porter Creek, and install a stormdrain outfall.

The proposed project consists of the construction of a 100-foot single span concrete bridge over Porter Creek and installation of a stormdrain outfall and associated riprap. In addition, an existing low-water crossing currently crosses Porter Creek 200 feet downstream of the proposed bridge, which serves an unpaved road that splits on the eastern side of Porter Creek and becomes two roads, extending north and south. To reduce erosion potential in the future, portions of the road will be decommissioned prior to completion of this project. The decommissioned roads will be stabilized with erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs). The applicant proposes to construct the bridge and associated footings outside of the ordinary high water level. The installation of the stormdrain outfall will result in impacts to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) jurisdictional waters through excavation and installation of rock riprap. According to the applicant, in order to reduce the potential for erosion from adjacent hillsides and sedimentation to Porter Creek, installation of a stormdrain outfall and rock riprap are necessary. Minor excavation will occur during the installation of the riprap. No trees will be removed during the installation of the riprap. Permanent impacts will occur to 60 square feet (10 feet long by 6 feet wide) along the bank of Porter Creek.

The beam on which the bridge will be constructed will be lifted into place with a crane which will be positioned on a temporary work pad in the bed of Porter Creek. Installation of the temporary work pad and/or the new outfall structure may require draining the project area. According to the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the project area goes dry during the summer, therefore diversions

will not be necessary. Appropriate erosion BMPs will be installed during construction to reduce potential water quality impacts. Instream work will take place between June 15 and October 15. Adhering to this schedule should minimize impacts to the unnamed stream and migrating fish. According to the California Department of Fish and Game, Porter Creek supports a population of steelhead trout (Federal Threatened Species). A permanent underground water line will be placed under the bed of Porter Creek by trenching. The trenching will temporarily impact 0.01 acre of jurisdictional waters.

Impacts associated with the project include the following:

- * Permanent Impact 1: the northernmost outfall and associated riprap will cover an area of approximately 0.001 acre of jurisdictional waters;
- * Temporary Impact 1: Trenching activity required for the installation of the water line crossing will impact approximately 0.01 acre of jurisdictional waters;
- * Temporary Impact 2: The construction of the temporary access road in the stream bed of Porter Creek and the work pad will result in temporary impacts to approximately 0.03 acre of jurisdictional waters;
- * Temporary Impact 3: Replacement of an existing outfall structure will temporarily impact 0.002 acre of jurisdictional waters.

The applicant has not proposed any compensatory mitigation for this project. According to the applicant, the project will result in an overall improvement in Porter Creek conditions, therefore no compensatory mitigation is proposed. During the permitting process adequate mitigation measures may be developed through consultations with Regional Water Board staff.

Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of erosion control BMPs.

The DFG, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Notice of Exemption Class 4, Section 15304-Minor Land Alterations pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The applicant has applied to the ACOE for Section 404 Nationwide Permits 12 - Utility Line Activities, 18 - Minor Discharges, and 33 - Temporary Construction, Access and Dewatering. The DFG issued a 1603 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement for the project on June 13, 2002.

The nearest receiving water is Porter Creek located in Mark West Hydrologic Unit No. 114.23.

The project is scheduled to begin during the summer of 2003. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Andrew Jensen at (707) 576-2683, or at jensa@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

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Twin Valley Ranch